

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Schonhorst et al. Group Art Unit: 3612
Serial No.: 10/596,248 Examiner: Chenevert, Paul A.
Filed: October 26, 2006 Confirmation No.: 4203
Title: CABRIOLET VEHICLE WITH COVER SUPPORT STRAP
Attorney Docket No.: KAR0105PCTUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and § 1.97-1.98, the references listed and identified on the attached Forms PTO/SB/08A are being submitted herewith for consideration by the Examiner. As required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2), a fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is being paid herewith.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3), the relevance of the non-English references as presently understood by the undersigned attorney, based upon the English abstract and the drawings, is as follows:

DE3907229C1 to Daimler-Benz appears to disclose a partial stiffening of a folding-top covering of a folding top of a convertible vehicle that is provided by a wide-shaped elastically stretchable tension-belt element 9 which is stretched between two supporting structure members 2, 3 of the folding top and which extends underneath the stretched covering and bears supportively thereagainst. So that the tension-belt element 9 can be used for stiffening a zone of the covering curved transversely relative to its longitudinal extension, it is supported by contoured shackles 10, 11, so that the wide side of the tension-belt element facing the covering has, at two supporting

locations at a distance from one another, a width contour matched to the intended transverse curvature of the covering, and the supporting forces are transmitted by means of a prestress directed towards the covering. A protective overlay 12 is sewn and glued to the element 9 to protect the element against wear by the covering support 6, the overlay being stretched before being applied. The element 9 may be formed by interlaced rubber threads (Fig 4). We do not have a full English translation of this reference.

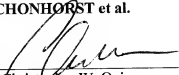
DE3907228C1 to Daimler-Benz appears to disclose a pull-cable arrangement for stabilizing a terminating edge of a folding-top cloth clamped onto a supporting folding-top frame of a folding top. A pull cable, which is held between two frame parts of the folding-top frame, is guided along the terminating edge, to be stabilized, on the folding-top cloth, and which, when the folding top is closed, is automatically transferred into its stretched clamping position as a result of a change in the spacing between the two retaining points of the pull cable, one retaining point of the pull cable being arranged in a manner such that it is fixed to the component on the associated frame part. In order to reduce to a minimum the constructional space required for the pull-cable arrangement, the second retaining point of the pull cable is also arranged in a manner such that it is fixed to the component on the associated frame part, and the pull-cable arrangement comprises a tension spring element. We do not have a full English translation of this reference.

While this Statement is being filed in compliance with the duty of disclosure, citation of the listed references is not to be construed as an admission that any of the references are "material" as defined under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

Form PTO/SB/08A is included herewith. Consideration and entry into the record of these references is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
SCHONHORST et al.

By


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3/12/08

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